

What's Ahead for the MAP?

Following is a status report on current and planned activities related to the development of an expanded state testing program, as required by No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

2003 Recap

During 2003, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education worked with numerous committees of Missouri educators to lay the groundwork for the development of a revised and expanded testing program. This work has included:

- Developing and publishing proposed “Grade-Level Expectations” for math, communication arts, science and social studies. These documents are the basis for the design of new assessment instruments.
- Writing new test items for grade-level assessments (grades 3-8 and one grade in high school) in math and communication arts. Items are being developed for two forms (2006 and 2007) of the revised assessments.
- Pilot-testing new math and communication arts items.
- Considering design options for a new “MAP-A” and preparing specifications for a contractor to develop the revised MAP-A (the required alternate assessment for students with disabilities).
- Writing new items for grade-span science assessments, to be used in 2008 if not before.

2004

The current MAP assessments will be administered as scheduled. All districts will give math and communication arts. Some districts (about 250) will give science and social studies on a voluntary basis. Other major tasks to be completed in 2004 include:

- Evaluating new items (math and communication arts) for validity and bias.
- Issuing a contract for development of the new MAP-A.
- Writing performance tasks for the MAP-A in math and communication arts.
- Writing items for the 2008 and 2009 forms of the math and communication arts assessments (grades 3-8 and one grade in high school).
- Piloting new MAP-A items.

2005

The MAP grade-span assessments in math and communication arts will be administered for the last time. Following completion of regular MAP testing, field-test versions of the new grade-level assessments will be administered to sample groups of students. Major activities scheduled for 2005:

- Field-test versions of the new math and communication arts assessments will be administered (grades 3-8 and one grade in high school).
- Field-test versions of MAP-A will be given in the same subjects and grades.

2005 (continued)

- The State Board of Education will adopt cut scores for new achievement levels (including the definition of “proficient”) in each grade level for both subjects. Revised achievement level standards also will be adopted for the MAP-A.

2006

In the spring of 2006, the revised and expanded assessment system for math and communication arts – covering grades 3-8 and one grade in high school – will be operational for all public schools in Missouri. The revised MAP-A also will be “live” in 2006. In addition:

- Field-test versions of the grade-span science assessments (elementary, middle and high school levels) will be administered to sample groups.
- Cut scores for achievement levels on the new science assessments will be established.

2007

The revised and expanded assessment system will be administered statewide for the second year. In addition:

- Field-test versions of the 2008 and 2009 math and communication arts assessments will be given to sample groups.
- Pilot and field-test versions of MAP-A science items will be given.

2008

The “complete” expanded assessment system will be implemented. This will include math, communication arts and science assessments for all required grade levels, including alternative forms for students with disabilities.

For more information, contact:

Assessment Section
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
PO Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480
1-800-845-3545
<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/assess/>

January 2004